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IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing demand television comprising:
 - a broadcast encoder for receiving and encoding a real-time video frame sequence to form a broadcast bitstream;
 - a storage encoder for receiving and encoding the real-time video frame sequence to form a plurality of storage bitstreams, wherein said storage encoder comprises:
 - a first encoder for producing a play bitstream that contains information that, when decoded, produces a forward play video frame sequence, said first encoder receiving and encoding the real-time video frame sequence contemporaneously with said broadcast encoder receiving and encoding said real-time video frame sequence;
 - a frame subsampler for receiving and subsampling the real-time video frame sequence contemporaneously with said broadcast encoder and first encoder receiving and encoding said real-time video frame sequence;
 - a buffer, for storing subsampled frames of the real-time video frame sequence;
 - a second encoder for producing a fast forward bitstream that contains information that, when decoded, produces a fast-forward video frame sequence;
 - a third encoder for producing a fast-reverse bitstream that contains information that, when decoded, produces a fast-reverse video frame sequence;
 - and
 - a controller that selects subsampled frames from the buffer and couples selected frames to the second and third encoders;
 - ~~a transmission system for transmitting the broadcast bitstream to subscriber equipment;~~
 - ~~a storage device for storing the plurality of storage bitstreams, wherein the storage device stores the plurality of storage bitstreams contemporaneously to the transmission system transmitting the broadcast bitstream; and~~
 - ~~wherein said fast forward bitstream contains an indicator that delimits an end of available data such that a transition from said fast forward bitstream to at least one of said broadcast bitstream and said play bitstream is appropriate.~~

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2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said broadcast encoder is a high data rate encoder.

Claims 3-5 Canceled.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first encoder is an MPEG encoder that encodes N frames of the video sequence.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said second and third encoders are MPEG encoders that encodes N subsampled frames.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller multiplexes selection of the frames from the buffer to apply a plurality of subsampled frames to said second encoder to form said fast forward bitstream and then apply a plurality of subsampled frames to said third encoder to form said fast reverse bitstream.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing demand television comprising the steps of:

encoding, in real-time, a broadcast video frame sequence to form a broadcast bitstream, while contemporaneously encoding the broadcast video frame sequence to form a plurality of storage bitstreams, wherein said plurality of storage bitstreams are contemporaneously formed by the steps of:

encoding said frames to form a play bitstream contemporaneously with said encoding, in real-time, said broadcast video frame sequence to form said broadcast bitstream;

subsampling said broadcast video frames contemporaneously with respect to said encoding said frames to form said broadcast bitstream and said play bitstream;

buffering said subsampled frames;
recalling said buffered frames in a forward time sequence order;
encoding said recalled buffered frames to form a said fast forward
bitstream;

recalling said buffered frames in a reverse time sequence order; and

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encoding said recalled buffered frames to form a fast reverse bitstream;
~~broadcasting the broadcast bitstream to subscriber equipment, while~~
~~contemporaneously storing the plurality of storage bitstreams within a storage device;~~
and
~~upon a subscriber selecting to view information previously broadcast by the~~
~~broadcast bitstream, transmitting to the subscriber the storage bitstream;~~
~~wherein said fast forward bitstream contains an indicator that delimits the end of~~
~~available data such that a transition from said fast forward bitstream to at least one of~~
~~said broadcast bitstream and said play bitstream is appropriate.~~

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said broadcast bitstream is a high data rate bitstream.

Claims 11-12 Canceled.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said play bitstream when decoded forms a standard play frame sequence.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said fast forward bitstream, when decoded, forms a fast forward frame sequence.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said fast reverse bitstream, when decoded, forms a fast reverse frame sequence.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said transmitting step further comprises the steps of:
recalling from said storage device a particular bitstream in response to a request for a particular bitstream type from a subscriber terminal;
addressing the requested bitstream to said requesting subscriber;
transmitting said requested bitstream to said subscriber equipment.

17. Canceled.

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18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the method further comprises a step of switching from transmitting a fast forward bitstream to transmitting said broadcast bitstream upon reaching the indicator.

Claims 19-22 (Canceled).

Claims 23-27 (Canceled).

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a transmission system for transmitting the broadcast bitstream to subscriber equipment.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:
a storage device for storing the plurality of storage bitstreams, wherein the storage device stores the plurality of storage bitstreams contemporaneously to the transmission system transmitting the broadcast bitstream.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said fast forward bitstream contains an indicator that delimits an end of available data such that a transition from said fast forward bitstream to at least one of said broadcast bitstream and said play bitstream is appropriate.

31. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
broadcasting the broadcast bitstream to subscriber equipment, while contemporaneously storing the plurality of storage bitstreams within a storage device.

32. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein upon a subscriber selecting to view information previously broadcast by the broadcast bitstream, transmitting to the subscriber the storage bitstream.

33. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said fast forward bitstream contains an indicator that delimits the end of available data such that a transition from said fast forward bitstream to at least one of said broadcast bitstream and said play bitstream is appropriate.

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34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said storage bitstream comprises at least a play bitstream and a fast forward bitstream, and upon said fast forward bitstream being exhausted of data, automatically switching from said storage bitstream to said broadcast bitstream.

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